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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I must agree with the finding of fact from US v. Microsoft 2001, and Messers Litan, Noll and Nordhaus, <http://www.antitrustinstitute.org/recent/162.pdf> that Microsoft has violated Section 2 of the Sherman antitrust act, to illegally crush, and will continue to illegally crush, commercial competitors.

Microsoft anti-competitive activity damages the pace of growth, by closing and poisoning standards, to maximize Microsoft's return. Even poisoning previous Microsoft product standards with incompatibility forces many consumers to upgrade or loose access to a large install base of current users/applications. Microsoft is very effective at bridling growth of choice with its install base.

Ironically, Open Standards fueled the growth of the internet and information age by creating larger install base for network economies, quietly handling email, and webpages across the net. We must return to, or in some cases reinforce, Open Standards, to fuel choice and price wars.

Microsoft's one way street for importing open standard data, but rarely providing adequate export formats other than proprietary save formats, is preventing users from having alternative choices. Even upgrade of Microsoft products is complicated by incompatible closed and obscure file formats from previous versions of Microsoft products.

But Microsoft's denial of OS and office tools choice, further perpetuates network economy dominance/install base, spurring yet more opportunity for Microsoft to maintain its control of core technologies and add outlying technologies, avoiding price wars, with competitors through tying ensuring license fees, and furthering its control and its dominant role.

Open Standards could again fuel growth by distributing opportunity and control with OS development, application development, and portable data formats. This is not a new trend.

Take for example, TV footage from the 1968 and 1972 Presidential Campaigns, which was closed format and hardware. Most of footage is inaccessible or gone, lost

from the historical record, due to technological change.  
But in Microsoft's case, we are not losing access via  
obscure hardware, because open hardware standards  
have created compatibility and affordability. We are losing  
data access due to arbitrary format changes each software  
generation by Microsoft.

Computer data can and should be like my boxes of college  
text books, that I still open and read from for references or pleasure.  
But Microsoft's closed or poisoned standards will  
block access to our nations historical record.  
Much like NPR's "Lost and Found Sound" only highly  
paid experts will be able to access historical information  
by carefully maintained old hardware and old software, will we  
be able to open obscure Microsoft's data formats such as  
MS Word's data buffer dump called "quick saves."

This is a yet higher invisible price to pay for Microsoft dominance.

Breaking up Microsoft would force a rebirth of Open Standards  
and spurring real growth and competition in the proposed  
Baby-Microsoft's, Linux/GNU, MacOS, PalmOS, and even Java.

Open Standards built the internet. Fueling explosive growth  
in sharing of information and services. Let open standards  
out of the corner that Microsoft is trying to push them.

Let portable middleware, APIs and exchange formats flourish,  
and truly see the fabled convergence that we promised  
actually come rushing in.

Reject the settlement for one with real teeth, break up the company.  
Separate Windows OS from applications such as Office and  
Internet Explorer.

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